Abstract

There is described a process for the preparation of citalopram and of its pharmaceutically acceptable salts, which comprises treating a 1-[3-(dimethylamino)propyl]-1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1,3-dihydro-5 isobenzofurancarbaldoxime, O-substituted preferably with a diphenylmethyl or triphenylmethyl group, with formic-acetic anhydride. Furthermore, the total synthesis of citalopram, as free base or in form of its pharmaceutically acceptable salt, starting from 5-formylphthalide is described.